Recycling of computers

2946. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report about the illeffects of unsafe recycling of computers on health;

(b) if so, whether in an effort to protect their own environment, Governments of wealthy countries are encouraging recycling of computers out of their land fills;

(c) whether Government have examined such report; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Toxics Link, a Non-Governmental Organization of New Delhi has brought out a report titled "Scrapping the Hi-tech Myth-Computer waste in India" dealing with various aspects of reprocessing of computers in India.

Electronic waste, including computer waste is included in List A and List B of Schedule III of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000. Specific permission of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is required for entry of this waste into the country. No such permission has been given to any authority or person by the Ministry till date. Further, as per para 2.17 of the EXIM Policy 2002-07, all second hand electronic goods are restricted for imports.

Software Export

2947. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's software export revenue of Rs. 1,85,000 crore is expected during the year 2002-03; and

(b) if so, what is the actual export revenue accruals in the first three quarters of 2002-03 *i.e.* from the 1st April to 31st December,

2002 and whether the target set for 2002-03 is likely to be achieved; if not, whether any special steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) India's software export during the year 2002-03 is expected to be about Rs. 46,500 crores.

(b) During the first three quarters of the financial year 2002-2003 (April-December), India's software export is around Rs. 31,200 crores.

The Tenth Five Year Plan of the Department of Information Technology had fixed a target of Rs. 54,000 crores worth of software exports during the year 2002-03. This target may fall short by about 15% because of a series of negative developments like the US economic recession, the global slow down, WTC disaster and more recently the Iraq War.

Government has taken following steps to promote export of computer software and services;

(i) Awarness programms and focussed Road Shows in collaboration with the Industry, organised periodically in potential markets.

(ii) Financial support to industry for organizing and participating in international fairs, exhibitions and conferences for marketing Indian strength in the sector.

(iii) Bilateral cooperation with other countries strengthened by entering into Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs). These MOUs have been used to provide platform for the industry to establish contracts with counterparts in these countries and to explore and increase possibilities of exports.

Faulty Telephone services of MTNL, Delhi

†2948. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.